

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 149827

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR THE CHARGE FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652:GDS

SUBJECT: GISCARD/BREZHNEV MEETING; TAGS:PARM, XG, OECD

1. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF SEVERAL POINTS WHICH GISCARD
MADE TO ME IN THE COURSE OF OUR MEETING WHICH WILL BE OF
INTEREST TO YOU.

2. GISCARD MENTIONED THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE
STUDY, SAYING THAT HE HAD WRITTEN TO THE PRESIDENT ABOUT
A MISUNDERSTANDING THAT HAD ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE
EXERCISE. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS FAMILIAR WITH BOTH HIS
LETTER AND THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE. GISCARD ADDED THAT
BOTH HE AND SCHMIDT FELT STRONGLY THAT THEY COULD NOT
AGREE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE STUDY
UNTIL AN ADEQUATE ANALYSIS OF IT HAD BEEN DONE. GISCARD
SAID THAT HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORT-
ING THE STUDY LATER ON, BUT HE WANTED TO BE SATISFIED BY A
PROPER ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED GUIDELINES.

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3. GISCARD FELT THAT THERE WAS A BASIS FOR A TECHNICAL
DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON THE DANGERS OF A PLUTONIUM
REGIME AND REPROCESSING. (FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD
TOLD ME EARLIER THAT THE PROBLEM REALLY WAS THAT GISCARD
FELT THAT HE COULD NOT ENDORSE THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL
CYCLE STUDY ON THE BASIS OF A PAPER THAT WAS DEVOTED
ESSENTIALLY TO SETTING OUT TERMS OF REFERENCE. THIS MADE

THE EXERCISE LOOK TOO MUCH LIKE FRANCE WAS BEING PUSHED INTO THE STUDY, AND THAT THE AMERICANS WERE THE PRIME DRAFTERS OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, AS WELL AS OF THE TWO-MONTH STUDY COMMISSIONED BY THE SEVEN LEADERS AT THE LONDON SUMMIT.) GISCARD THEN ASKED ME WHO WOULD HEAD UP THE FOLLOW-ON WORK FOR US IN THE NON-PROLIFERATION FIELD. I TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD BE GERRY SMITH AND DESCRIBED GERRY'S BACKGROUND TO HIM. HE SEEMED PLEASED THAT A MAN OF GERRY'S EXPERIENCE WOULD BE TAKING ON THE TASK FOR US.

4. GISCARD SAID THAT THE FRENCH ECONOMY HAD PICKED UP CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT WEEKS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH HAD REMAINED HIGH. THE POLITICAL SITUATION ALSO LOOKED BETTER TO HIM THAN IN THE PAST. I TOLD GISCARD THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DECLINED THE OVERTURE THAT HE MEET WITH FRANCOIS MITTERRAND IN WASHINGTON. GISCARD WAS PLEASED AT THIS AND SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED WHAT HAD BEEN DONE.

5. IN COMMENTING ON THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE, GISCARD SAID THAT IT WAS RATHER STRANGE THAT BREZHNEV READ ALL OF HIS STATEMENTS FROM PAPERS WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR HIM AHEAD OF TIME. BREZHNEV SEEMED UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN THE NORMAL GIVE-AND-TAKE DIALOGUE THAT HE WAS USED TO DOING IN THE PAST. GISCARD FOUND BREZHNEV
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LOOKING OLD AND TIRED. VANCE

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